

---

# Heightening Adult Education Students' Aspirations and Goals

Priyanka Sharma  
National College Transition Network

---

---

# **“Soft Skills?”**

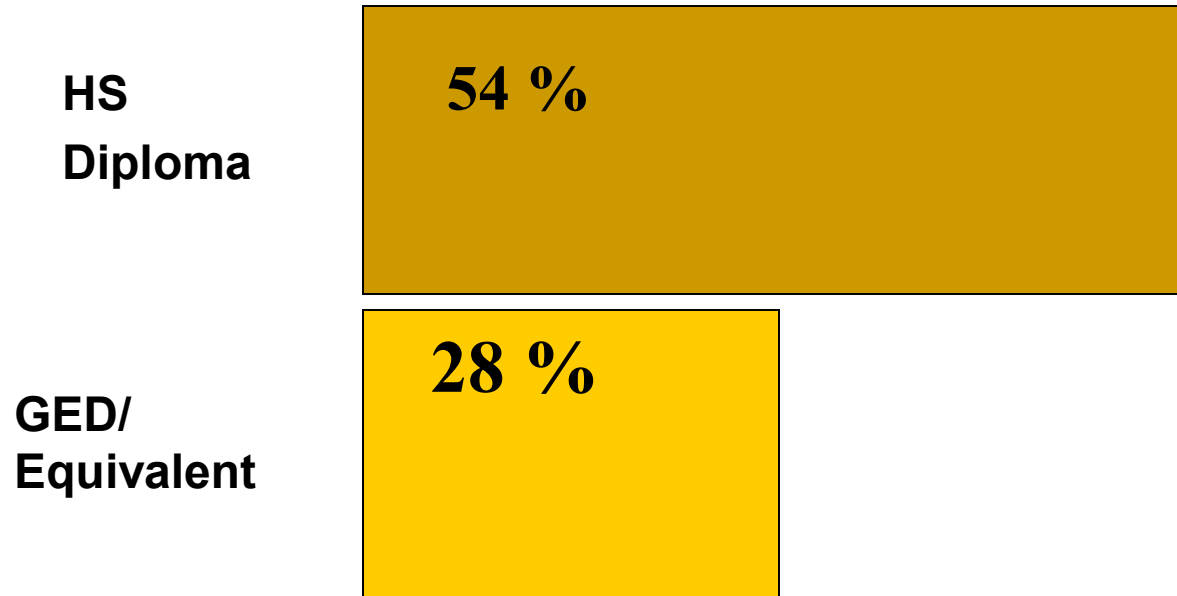
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98V9cEYe6-A>

---

- Time for a test...



# Persistence Rates in 2-Year Colleges



Over 5 year period, twice as many HS graduates attain Associate's degrees compared to GED earners.

---

# Your Experience

- ❑ *Why and how did you go to college? Think back on your own college experience and try to remember what supports and barriers you experienced.*
  - ❑ *Compose a list of the barriers to access and success in postsecondary education that you think your adult learners might encounter.*
  - ❑ *Share this with a partner.*
  - ❑ *Do you notice any commonalities in your answers?*
-

---

# A Nontraditional Student:

- ❑ Delays enrollment
  - ❑ Attends part time
  - ❑ Works full time while enrolled
  - ❑ Is financially independent (by financial aid definition)
  - ❑ Has dependents
  - ❑ Is a single parent
  - ❑ Enters college without a traditional high school diploma
-

---

# Current Undergraduates

- About 85 percent of current undergraduates are considered nontraditional: older students, parents (especially single parents), students who work full-time, students who are financially independent, and/or students who come to college without a traditional high school diploma.

U.S. Department of Education, NCES, 2010

---

# Student Success Factors

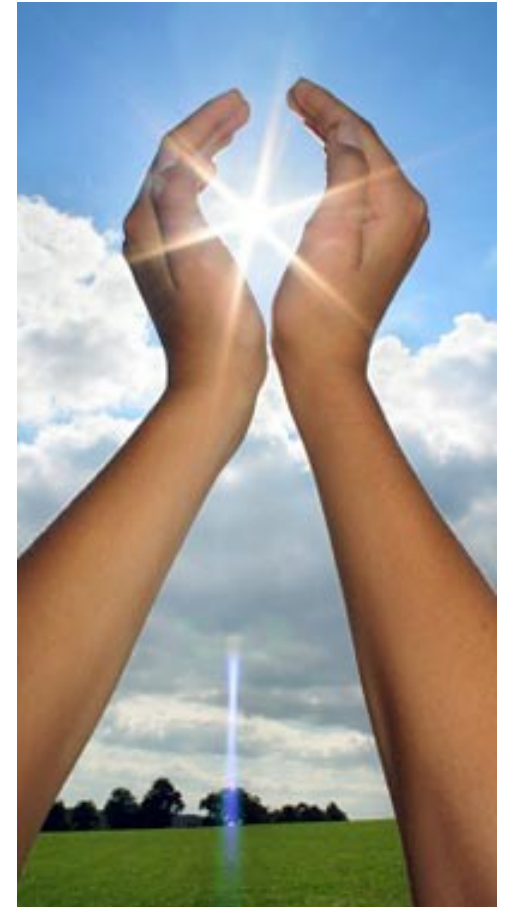
- ❑ Display a willingness to embrace change
- ❑ Open to new skills and perspectives
- ❑ Have clear career goals
- ❑ Focus and good attendance
- ❑ Self-starters who use resources
- ❑ Good self-esteem
- ❑ Ability to connect with learning community



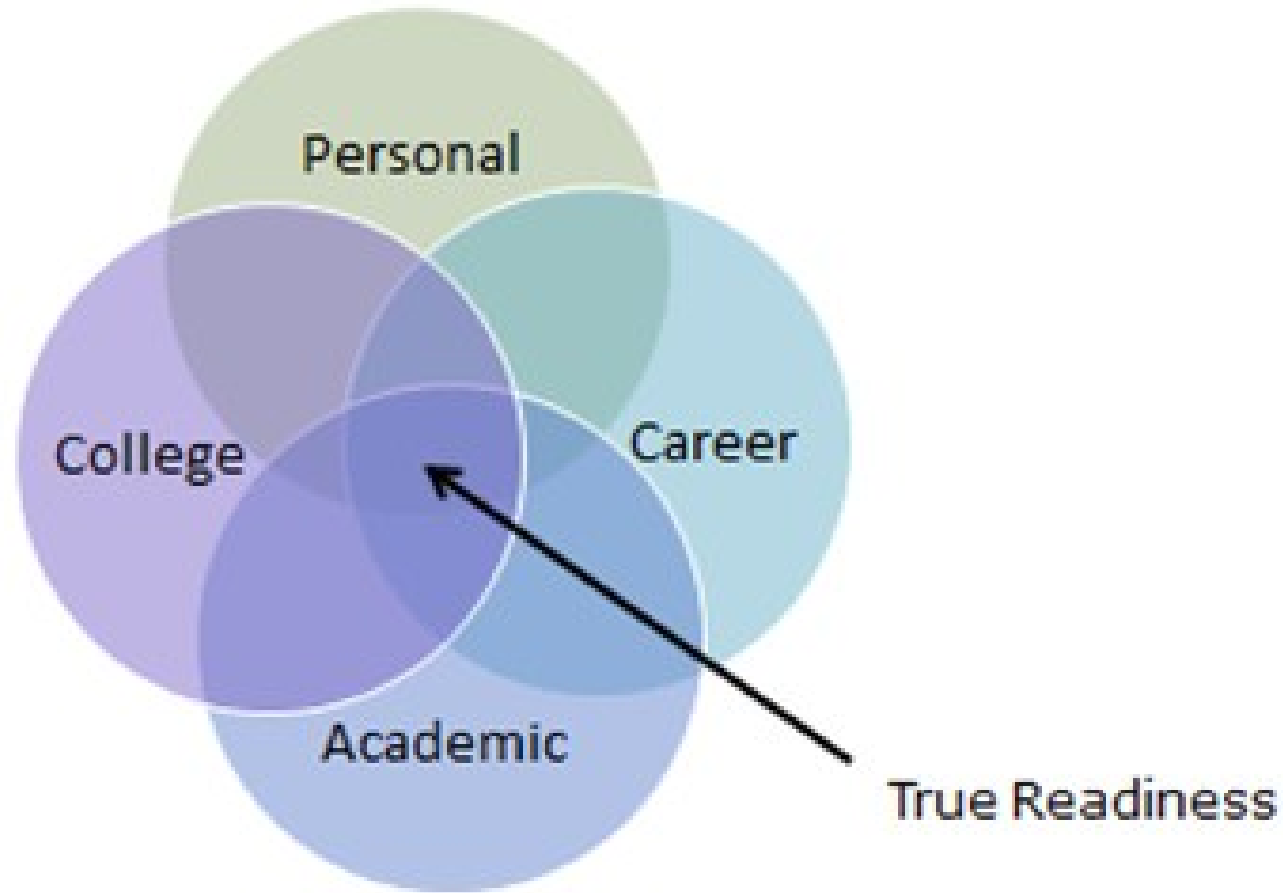


# Goals and Aspirations

- Unraveling Differences
- Why do we need goals AND aspirations?



# College and Career Readiness



This True Readiness graphic was developed by the LEAP Transition Program, Workforce/Economic Development & Continuing Education, El Paso Community College.

---

# Academic Knowledge and Skills

- reading, writing, and math skills
- content knowledge, reading, writing, and algebra skills
- study and test taking skills and technology skills
- self-management and awareness of self as a learner



*Activity: Transitioning Skills worksheet*

---

# Personal Readiness

- anticipating challenges, and securing supports and services proactively
- juggling multiple commitments while managing stress and time
- accessing income supports, benefits, as needed
- financial planning, budgeting
- self-advocacy and conflict resolution skills



*Activity: Where does time go?*

# Career Awareness and Plan

- growing awareness of one's skills, interests, values, and priorities
- research skills
- setting realistic goals that include specific action steps and timelines
- resume writing and job search and interview skills



*Activity: SMART Goal Worksheet*

# College Knowledge

- knowledge of array of campus functions, resources
- ability to navigate the college culture, environment, and procedures
- familiarity with college admissions and financial aid processes

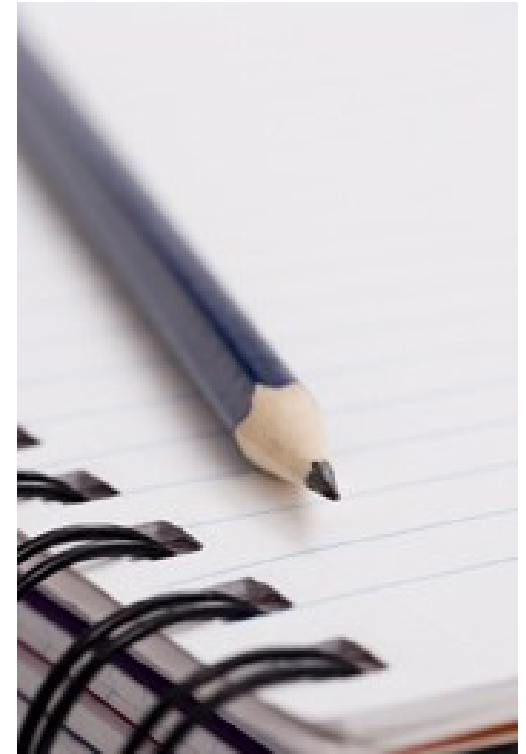


*Activity: College Awareness Quiz*

---

# Program Design Implications

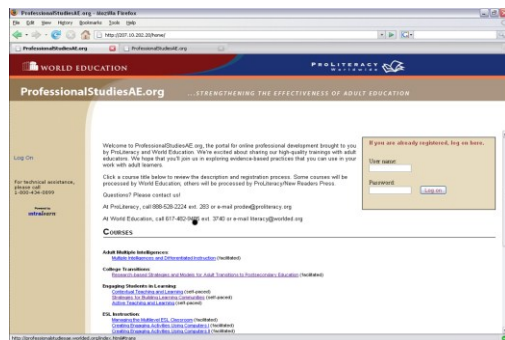
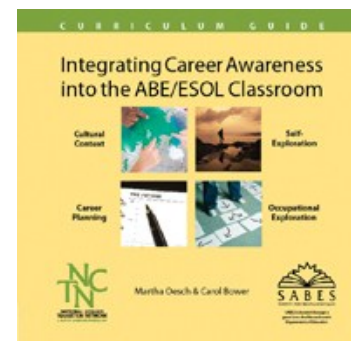
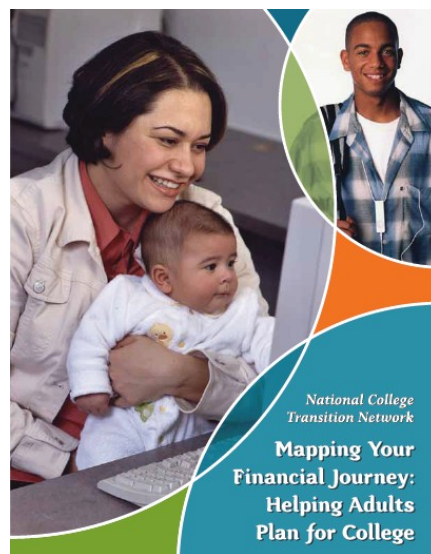
- Program Policies and Practices
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Counseling and Advising
- Coordination and Collaboration



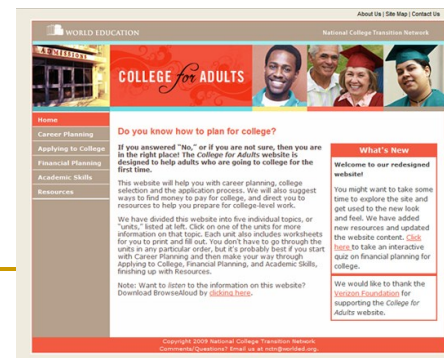
What are the implications for your program?

---

# NCTN Resources



[www.collegetransition.org](http://www.collegetransition.org)





# Thank you!

Priyanka Sharma  
National College Transition Network  
World Education, Inc.

[psharma@worlded.org](mailto:psharma@worlded.org)

 @PriyankaS\_NCTN

**Visit:**

[www.collegetransition.org](http://www.collegetransition.org)

[www.collegeforadults.org](http://www.collegeforadults.org)

**Join us:**

 @NCTN\_WorldEd

 /NationalCollegeTransitionNetwork